



***The RI Volunteer  
Guardianship Program  
has been serving elders  
throughout the state of  
RI for nearly 20 years.***

To learn more about the RI Volunteer  
Guardianship Program please contact:

**RI Volunteer Guardianship Program**  
tel. 401-462-3292  
fax. 401-462-0545

**Rhode Island Department of  
Human Services**

**Division of Elderly Affairs**

**RI Volunteer Guardianship Program.**

**John O. Pastore Center**  
Cranston, RI 02903



**Rhode Island Department of  
Human Services**

**Division of Elderly Affairs**

**Rhode Island Volunteer  
Guardianship Program**

**John O. Pastore Center**  
Cranston, RI 02903



## **RI Volunteer Guardianship Program**



## **Volunteer Guardians For Seniors**

**RI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

tel. 401-462-3292  
fax. 401-462-0545  
[www.dea.ri.gov](http://www.dea.ri.gov)

## ***Guardianship is a legal arrangement through which the Guardian is authorized to make certain decisions for another person.***

Volunteer Guardians make health decisions on behalf of low-income seniors who have no available family. With orientation, training, and ongoing support, a volunteer guardian can provide decision making support to an individual. Volunteer guardians from the Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP) are not in charge of finances and are not caregivers. They are known as “Good Samaritan” guardians.

### ***Volunteer Guardians***

- Are compassionate and understanding
- Have varied backgrounds, life experiences and professions
- May have training in health care or social work
- Can be working, retired or adult students



### **Who may be eligible to have a Volunteer Guardian?**

#### ***Rhode Island residents who:***

- Are at least 60 years of age
- Are medically determined to need a surrogate decision maker
- Have income that meets certain criteria
- Have no family or friend able or available to be a guardian

Most seniors who are referred to the VGP for a Volunteer Guardian are being treated for a number of medical conditions in addition to dementia. Because of their dementia, they are in need of decision making support in the areas of care and treatment.

Volunteer lawyers prepare legal documents and represent the volunteers at the court hearings to appoint volunteers as guardians. The RI Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service for the Elderly provides lawyers who do this without charging a fee.

### **How can you help?**

- Call today for information
- Learn about the VGP and the support offered to volunteers
- Apply to become a volunteer guardian
- Receive training and orientation
- Share your time in compassionate ways
- Receive the rewards that volunteering in this unique program can bring

**Become a Volunteer Guardian –  
you will change a life!**

**Volunteer Guardian application can  
be downloaded from our website at:**

**[www.dea.ri.gov](http://www.dea.ri.gov)  
401-462-3293**